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Subject: Talking Points in Response to Interior Secretary Zinke's Statements Regarding Wind Energy

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Colleagues,

In a speech before oil and gas executives at the CERAweek conference in Houston on Tuesday, Interior Secretary Zinke said that wind production has a "significant carbon footprint" and that wind turbines kill birds. Secretary Zinke said:

"We probably chop up as many as 750,000 birds a year with wind and the carbon footprint on wind is significant," Zinke said. "I always thought the best place for wind was on the roof of a house."

Here're a few talking points you or your governor might wish to use if asked about Secretary Zinke's comments:

- A typical wind turbine repays its carbon [footprint in about 6 months](#). Wind is also one of the biggest, fastest, cheapest ways to cut carbon pollution. In 2016 alone, wind cut nearly [34 million cars' worth](#) of CO2 pollution. [A recent project examining solutions](#) to carbon pollution ranked land-based wind energy the number two remedy and offshore wind 22nd out of 100.
- Wind causes fewer than 0.01% of all human-related bird deaths
- Wind turbines kill an estimated [140,000 to 328,000](#) birds each year, but the biggest threat to birds is climate change. [More than half of the bird species](#) in North America could lose at least half of their current ranges by 2080 due to rising temperatures.

Larry

Sources:

Secretary Zinke Overestimates Wind Power's Impact on Birds, Downplays Fossil Fuel's Risks, <http://www.audubon.org/news/secretary-zinke-overestimates-wind-powers-impact-birds-downplays-fossil-fuels>

<http://time.com/5187877/donald-trump-wind-power-ryan-zinke-birds-global-warming/>

<https://www.axios.com/fact-checking-zinkes-bird-death-claim-1520379825-0dbede05-9934-42f6-988b-58c9e3fbe280.html>

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